



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20463

March 6, 1998

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

ADVISORY OPINION 1998-3

Gary G. Allen  
Reform Party of Idaho  
PO Box 2222  
Boise, ID 83701

Dear Mr. Allen:

This refers to your letter dated January 23, 1998, which requests advice concerning the application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and Commission regulations to the possible status of the Reform Party of Idaho ("the Party") as a State committee of a political party.

Enclosed with your request is a copy of the certificate of the Party's ballot status in the State of Idaho. Your request also includes a copy of an affiliation agreement between the Reform Party of Idaho and the Reform Party of the United States of America.

Under the Act and Commission regulations, the term "State committee" means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the State level, as determined by the Commission. 2 U.S.C. §431(15); 11 CFR 100.14. The definition of State committee also requires the existence of a political party. The term "political party" is defined under 2 U.S.C. §431(16) and 11 CFR 100.15 as an association, committee, or organization which nominates a candidate for election to any Federal office whose name appears on the election ballot as the candidate of such association, committee, or organization.

The Commission notes that the issue of the State committee status of the Reform Party of Idaho was included in Advisory Opinion 1998-2 which considered and approved the national committee status of the Reform Party of the United States of America and

the State committee status of several of its State affiliates. See Advisory Opinion 1998-2. For the reasons stated in that opinion, the Commission concludes again that the Reform Party of Idaho qualifies as the State committee of a political party under the Act and Commission regulations.

This response constitutes an advisory opinion concerning the application of the Act, or regulations prescribed by the Commission, to the specific transaction or activity set forth in your request. See 2 U.S.C. §437f.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Joan D. Aikens  
Chairman

Enclosure (AO 1998-2)